IMT Nuremberg Archives

H – 3145

International Court of Justice

H3145 - 0002

Affidavit No. 16.

ERKLÄRUNG

Während meiner Dienstzeit ~~in~~ von Mai 4ab bis Juni 1943 als Chef der 4ten Armee der Heeresgruppe Mitte waren SD Einheiten am Anfang zugeteilt, um angeblich ~~für Ruhe und Ordnung~~ Abwehrdienste im ~~Front~~ Operationsgebiet der Armee zu ~~Sorgen.~~ leisten. Es stellte sich ~~bald~~ später heraus, dass diese SD Einheiten unter der ansässigen Zivilbevölkerung grosse Aufregung verursachten, die zur Folge hatte, dass mein Vorgesetzter den Oberbefehlshaber der Heeresgruppe, Generalfeldmarschall ~~Kuechler,~~ v. Kluge ~~schriftlich~~ darum bat, die SD Einheiten aus dem Frontgebiet zurückzukommandieren, was dann unmittelbar geschah. Der Grund dafür lag vor allen Dingen darin, dass die Ausschweifungen der SD Einheiten durch ~~Massen~~Executionen von Juden und ander~~sartigen~~er Personen ~~solche~~ Ausmasse annahmen, dass eine Bedrohung für die Sicherheit der Armee in ihrem Kampfgebiet durch die empörte Zivilbevölkerung bestand. Obwohl man allgemein über die Sonderaufgaben der SD Einheiten bescheid wusste und dies ja auch anscheinend mit Wissen der obersten Wehrmachtführung geschah, traten wir deren Methoden weitmöglichst entgegen, da die oben erwähnte Gefährdung der eigenen Truppe bestand.

[signature]

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
NURNBERG, GERMANY
USA Exhibit 560
Filed Jan 7, 1946

aff 16

CITY OF NURNBERG: SS

Before me, WALTER H. RAPP, Captain, Cavalry, ASN O-454231 an officer duly qualified to take oaths, appeared General HANS ROETTIGER, to me known, who in my presence signed the foregoing statement consisting of one page in the German language, and swore that the same was true on the 28th day of November 1945.

WALTER H. RAPP
Captain CAV
O-454231

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TRANSLATION OF AFFIDAVIT No.16
OFFICE OF U.S.CHIEF OF COUNSEL

STATEMENT

During my period of service in 1942/3 as chief of staff of the 4th Army of the Central Army Group, SD units were attached in the beginning, apparently for the purpose of counter-intelligence activity in front-line areas. It was clear that these SD units were causing great disturbances among the local civilian population with the result that my commanding officer therefore asked the commander-in-chief of the army group, Field Marshal von Kluge, to order the SD units to clear out of the front-line areas, which took place immediately. The reason for this first and foremost was that the excesses of the SD units by way of execution of Jews and other persons assumed such proportions as to threaten the security of the Army in its combat areas because of the aroused civilian populace. Although in general the special tasks of the SD units were well known and appeared to be carried out with the knowledge of the highest military authorities, we opposed these methods as far as possible, because of the danger which existed for our troops.

(Signed) ROETTIGER

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aff 16 4

CITY OF NURNBERG: SS

Before me, WALTER H. RAPP, Captain, Cavalry, ASN O-454231, an officer duly qualified to take oaths, appeared General HANS ROETTIGER, to me known, who in my presence signed the foregoing statement consisting of one page in the German language, and swore that the same was true on the 28th day of November 1945.

(Signed) Walter H. Rapp
WALTER H. RAPP
Captain CAV
O-454231

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: (The above acknowledgment of oath appeared in the original in English)

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION
OF DOCUMENT

I, PAUL A. NEULAND, Major, QMC, ASN O-385720, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the English and German languages; and that the above is a true and correct translation of Affidavit No.16.

Paul A. Neuland
PAUL A. NEULAND
Major QMC
O-385720

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IFF. ~ 16-3714-PS
USA-560

H3145 - 0007

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

EVIDENCE DIVISION

Date : 21 July 1948

I certify that Document Number 5414-PS was introduced into evidence as Exhibit Number USA-560 in the Trial by the International Military Tribunal of Hermann GOERING, et al, which commenced on 20 November 1945, and that the attached photostat is a true and correct copy of the original.

Fred Niebergall

Fred NIEBERGALL
Chief, Document
Control Branch.

H3145-0008

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the annexed document 5414-PS No. USA-560 is a photostat of an original document submitted in evidence by the United States Prosecution under this number. The original document has been withdrawn in accordance with Rule 10 of the International Military Tribunal, and to the best of my knowledge and belief is to be held at the National Archives, Washington D.C. .

Nuremberg, 14 July 1948

Paul Joosten

PAUL A. JOOSTEN

General Secretary
International Military
Tribunal

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USA 560

Affidavit 16 - Exhibit USA 560

Filed Jan. 7, 1946 5714-PS

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